International airport near Pune

1354. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to have an International Airport at Chakan near Pune;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) There is a proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra for construction of an International airport at Chakan near Pune. All related works are being done by the State Government. Airports Authority of India (AAI) is providing only Technical Consultancy.

Operating costs of AI and IA

1355. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines and Air India have been suffering operational losses on most of their routes as reported in the Statesman dated 12th August, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Air India and Indian Airlines have adopted any strategy to eliminate such losses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Air India has been incurring operating losses on most of their routes. However, except for domestic Hub & Spoke connections, all routes generate cash surplus. In case of Indian Airlines, 101 services out of 157 services have generated cash profit in the year 2001-2002.

(c) and (d) The performance of the airline is viewed in the context of